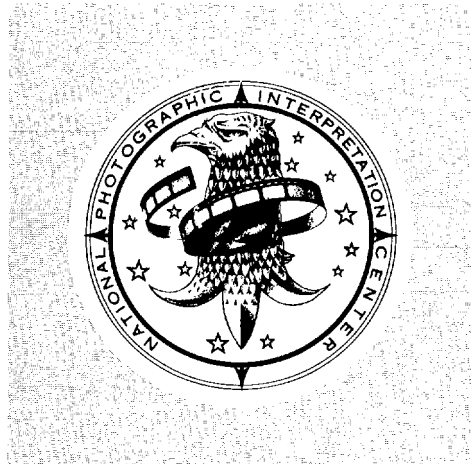


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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**SOVIET-CHINESE COMMUNIST NAVAL
AID TO NORTH VIETNAM**

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NPIC/R-16/70

APRIL 1970

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SOVIET-CHINESE COMMUNIST NAVAL AID TO NORTH VIETNAM

INTRODUCTION

25X1D Soviet and Chinese Communist naval aid to North Vietnam continues. The most recent Soviet aid consists of T-4 and T-4 variant LCMs (mechanized landing craft), pilot boats, motor launches, and small river launches [REDACTED]. The Chinese have contributed numerous new SLs (small logistics vessels), an LST (AO) (tank landing ship converted to an oiler) (Figure 1), a naval auxiliary, possibly of Chinese construction (Figure 2), YFs (covered lighters, self-propelled), AOLs (small oilers), and small harbor patrol craft.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

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Soviet naval aid has been directed toward harbor and small logistics vessels with little or no armament. Since [REDACTED] the North Vietnam



FIGURE 1. CHINESE COMMUNIST LST (AO)

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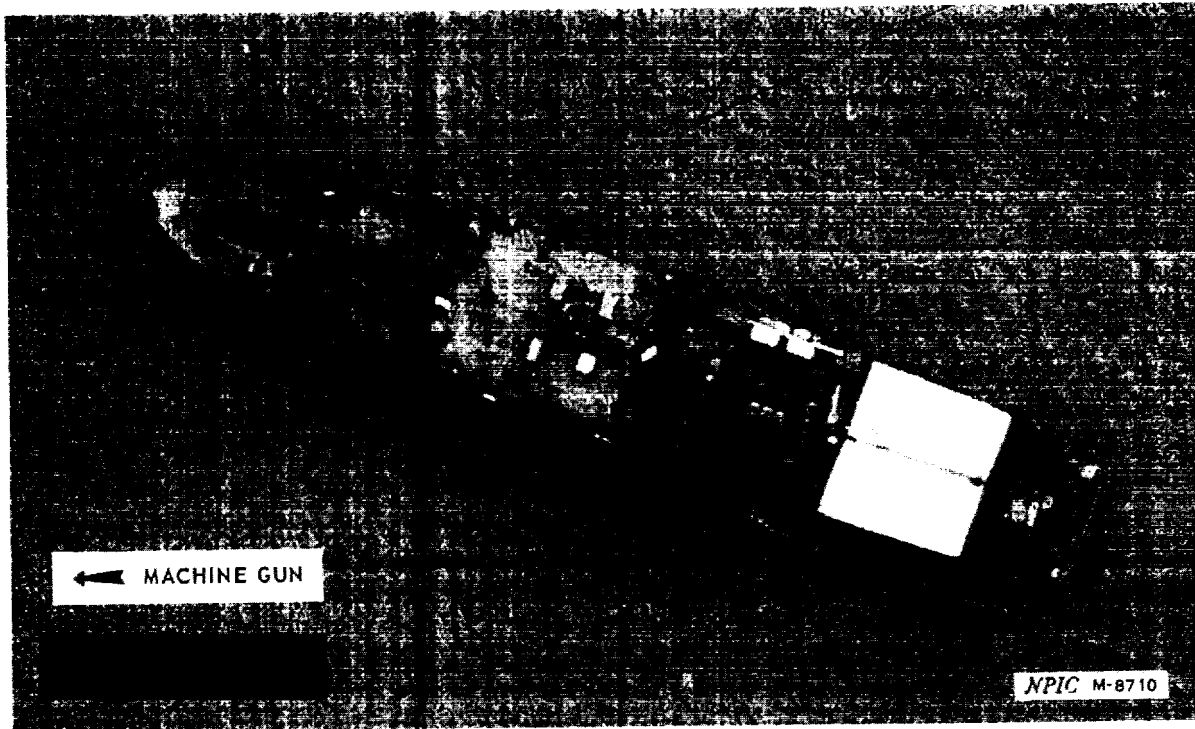


FIGURE 2. NAVAL AUXILIARY GIVEN TO NORTH VIETNAM BY COMMUNIST CHINA

inventory of T-4 and T-4 variant LCMs has increased from 20 to 33. The LCMs (Figure 3) have been used as general cargo and POL (both bulk and 55-gallon drum) carriers. Also, at least eight small river launches, observed from Haiphong to Quang Khe, have been added to the previous ten. Since [REDACTED] two pilot boats and 12 motor launches have been introduced, and four pusher-type tugboats (towboats) have been added.

Although the Chinese have produced river steamers, barges, and tugboats for North Vietnam, their aid has centered around infiltration or infiltration-support vessels and combatants. Since [REDACTED] Chinese Communist aid has been used to add 19 vessels to the North Vietnam infiltration order of battle. The Chinese aid is reflected in the increase of the SL-2 inventory from two to six since [REDACTED]. The SL-1 inventory has increased from 24 to 32 vessels, and three Wuhu YFs have been added to the North Vietnamese fleet since [REDACTED]. The Chinese Communists introduced four new SL-7 infiltration vessels (Figure 4).

The Chinese have contributed other naval aid to North Vietnam. Since [REDACTED] the new-class YP (patrol craft) inventory has increased from [REDACTED]

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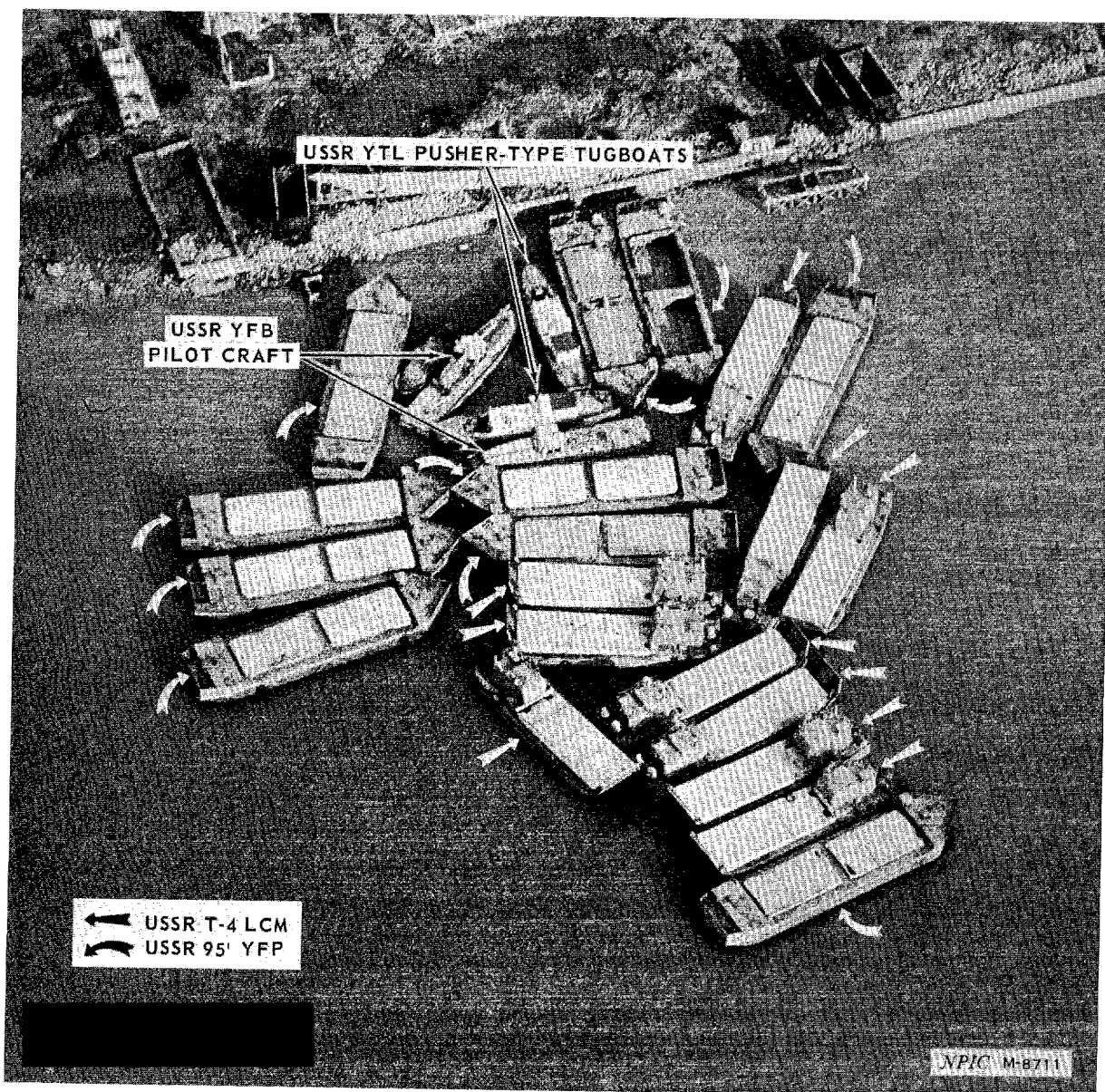
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one to five. In [REDACTED] at least 15 Type 46 AOLs were introduced. In [REDACTED] a possibly Chinese Communist naval auxiliary was photographed. The addition of a second LST (AO) in [REDACTED] has increased the North Vietnamese capability to off-load POL and could cause a substantial decrease in the turnaround time of incoming tankers.

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Table 1 lists Communist naval aid to North Vietnam through [REDACTED]



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FIGURE 3. SOVIET CRAFT AT HAIPHONG



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FIGURE 4. CHINESE COMMUNIST SL-7 INFILTRATION VESSELS

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TABLE 1. Communist Naval Aid to North Vietnam through

Class/Name	Type	Number Observed
<u>USSR</u>		
Combatants:		
S.O.1	SC	4
P-6	PT	6-8
P-4	PT	6-8
Poluchat	YP	2
PO-2	YP	2
T-4	LCM	25
T-4 (V)	LCM	8
Service Craft:		
Zemleses SC-8	YM (Suction)	1
1954	YM (Bucket)	1
1957	YM (Bucket)	1
Cat Ba (1958)	YM (Bucket)	1
Dinh Vu	YM (Bucket)	1
ZRS-1	YM (Suction)	22
ZRS-2 (Suspect)	YM (Bucket)	8
Bach Dang	ATR	1
125' Tugboat, Ocean	ATA	1
H.C. 1	YTM	1
100' Tugboat, Harbor	YTM	1
25X1D [REDACTED] Tugboat, Harbor	YTM	1
YTR-3	YTR	1
Pusher-Type, Tugboat (Towboat)	YTL	6
Pilot Boat	YFB	2
25X1D [REDACTED] Motor Launch	YFB	12
Fishing:		
Viet Xo 1 & 2	STR-M	2
Viet Xo 14	RT	1
Barges:		
25X1D [REDACTED] Lighter	YFP	8
95' Lighter	YFP	14
Type 1	YBR	Unknown
Type 14	YBR	Unknown
Type 15	YBR	Unknown
Type 42	YO	Unknown
Type 69	YBR	Unknown
Type 77	YO	Unknown

TABLE 1. (Continued)

Class/Name	Type	Number Observed
<u>COMMUNIST CHINA</u>		
Combatants:		
Shanghai II	PGM	4
Swatow	PGM	13-15
Whampoa	PGM	3-5
New Class	YP	5
Unid YP	YP	2
MK-6	LCM	3
Infiltration:		
SL-1	SL	32
SL-2	SL	6
SL-3	SL	3
SL-4	SL	4
SL-5	SL	1
SL-6	SL	1
SL-7	SL	4
Wuhu	YF	7
Service Craft:		
Chinese Communist River Tugboat	YTL	8
Auxiliaries:		
Unid Naval Auxiliary	Unknown	1
LST (AO)	LST	2
Type 46	APC	15
Type 46(V)	APC	6
Type 46	AOL	15
Type 47	APC	12
Type 47(V)	APC	4
Fishing:		
Viet Trung	RT	10
Viet Trung(V)	RT	8
Junk	Unknown	4
Barges:		
Type 18	YFP	Unknown
Type 21	YFP	Unknown
Type 24	YFP	Unknown
Type 27	YFP	Unknown
Type 28	YFP	Unknown
Type 40	YO	Unknown
Type 73	YFP	Unknown

TABLE 1. (Continued)

Class/Name	Type	Number Observed
<u>NORTH KOREA</u>		
Service Craft:		
NK River Tugboats	YTR	10
Fishing/Infiltration:		
NK-1	Lugger	2
NK-2	Lugger	2
<u>RUMANIA</u>		
Service Craft:		
40' Launch	YFB	12
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Service Craft:		
Ha Long Bay	ARSD	1
Fishing:		
Viet Duc	Cutter	9
Viet Duc(V)	Cutter	6

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

25X1D This report is based on photography covering North Vietnam from
There were at least
missions flown during this period.

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REQUIREMENT

NPIC Project 172002NI

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